

## Today's News - Thursday, June 13, 2013

EDITOR'S NOTE: Unexpected circumstances kept us from posting yesterday - now there's lots of catching up to do!

- Merkel remembers Diffrient, whose "designs were peppered with a critical eye and a willingness to take a different path when the well-worn one seemed cluttered."
- Davidson weighs in on Bloomberg's "brilliant, radical waterfront defense plan" for NYC, "the bureaucratic version of Cassandra's cry" + the mayor says the price tag may be high, but "the cost of not taking action would be higher" + his "striking a tone of defiance" (undoubtedly a lot of other waterfront cities will be taking a good look at this report).
- Heathcote takes a look at what the future may hold for urban centers everywhere: "If cities can create and reinforce the bonds between their citizens - and across the classes - they will be able to withstand the upheavals of explosive growth and not just survive but thrive."
- Hatherley finds lessons "we should learn about austerity and urbanity" from the Berlin's Nikolaiertel area: "It's tasteless, weird, clunky - and intriguing, freighted with peculiar ideas."
- Should tall buildings be banished from historic cities? Yes, says EH's Thurley; No, says Tavernor.
- Heller discovers a design school that sells him on Detroit's future: "the rare collegiate creative enclave that engages with, reflects, and embodies the city it's in" - and could have a hand in making the Motor City "the design capital of the U.S. again."
- Houston's African-American-owned firms take issue with the city's school board for giving them the cold shoulder when it comes to contracts (they're not even invited to the table).
- Jerusalem gets more starchitecture with SANAA's plans for a new Bezalel Academy campus, and an Einstein Museum by Foster + Partners.
- The Menil Collection taps Van Valkenburgh for its 30-acre verdant landscape.
- Winners, winners everywhere: Olcayto draws up the shortlist of shortlists among the RIBA Award winners re: why which will be up for the Stirling (he should win an award for best parenthetical comments ever!) + Educational buildings dominate this year's Stirling prize longlist.
- RIAS honors 12 projects now in line for the Andrew Doolan Best Building in Scotland Award.
- Eyefuls of the 2013 Burnham Prize winners (Chicago should be so lucky to get these BRT stations!).
- The Design Trust for Public Space names five fellows to explore how to "transform 100 million square feet of dark, dingy, and neglected space."
- BOFFO Building Fashion winner is a pop-up shipping container space for menswear designer Michael Bastian by Bittertang.
- A good reason to be in NYC next week: CityAge: The Global Metropolis conference.
- Call for entries (deadlines loom!): EOI for Dublin's Parnell Square Cultural Quarter + 6th Benjamin Moore HUE Awards.

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**Obituary: Humanscale Designer Niels Diffrient, 84, Remembered:** ..."the granddaddy of ergonomic design." He was that and so much more...[his] designs were peppered with a critical eye and a willingness to take a different path when the well-worn one seemed cluttered. By Jayne Merkel-Architectural Record

**Bloomberg's Brilliant, Radical \$20 Billion Waterfront Defense Plan:** ...A Stronger, More Resilient New York is the bureaucratic version of Cassandra's cry...The best option, the report declares with irrefutable clarity, is to do a little of everything...goes all out on waterfront development...building a new neighborhood...Seaport City. The strategy is radical; the tactics are familiar. By Justin Davidson [[link to report, images](#)]- New York Magazine

**Bloomberg Outlines \$20 Billion Storm Protection Plan:** ...building an extensive network of flood walls, levees and bulkheads along its 520 miles of coast..."This is urgent work, and it must begin now"...said that the price tag was high, but that the cost of not taking action would be higher.- New York Times

**No Retreat From The Coastline: Striking a tone of defiance, Mayor Michael Bloomberg said today that New York City will not retreat from its coastline...**"A Stronger More Resilient New York" aspires to fortify the city — at an estimated cost of \$19.5 billion...proposed a new waterfront development similar to Battery Park City called "Seaport City"... [[link to report](#)]- Gotham Gazette (NYC)

**The urban dream lives on: Administrations from Istanbul to Tehran, Beijing and Rangoon are slowly coming to terms with the need to give citizens something more...If cities can create and reinforce the bonds between their citizens – and across the classes...they will be able to withstand the upheavals of explosive growth and not just survive but thrive.** By Edwin Heathcote- Financial Times (UK)

**Lessons from Berlin's mysterious east: We should learn about austerity and urbanity from the city's Nikolaiertel area...possibly the world's only brutalist historical reconstruction project...fragment of the idea that urban individuality could be mass-produced...It's tasteless, weird, clunky — and intriguing, freighted with peculiar ideas.** By Owen Hatherley- BD/Building Design (UK)

**Should tall buildings be banished from historic cities? Yes - Simon Thurley/English Heritage; No - Robert Tavernor/Tavernor Consultancy- BD/Building Design (UK)**

**The Design School That Sold Me on Detroit's Future:** The College for Creative Studies...intrinsically linked with Motor City for more than a century...this surprisingly little known but inspiring incubator of art and design - the rare collegiate creative enclave that engages with, reflects, and embodies the city it's in...with the help of CCS, it could well become the design capital of the United States again. By Steven Heller- The Atlantic

**A \$1.89 Billion Architectural Heist? Houston Black Architects Believe HISD [Houston Independent School District] Has Given Them the Cold Shoulder on Contracts - National Organization of Minority Architects (HONMA); Archi\*Technics/3; IDGArchitects; P2MG; RDC Architects; James S Walker Architects; Smith & Company Architects- Houston Forward Times (Texas)**

**SANAA Unveils Plans for New Downtown Bezalel Academy Arts & Design Campus in Jerusalem:** ...competition-winning proposal, designed in collaboration with Israel's Nir -Kutz Architects, features an array of stacked horizontal slabs that react to the area's topography and surrounding context... [[images](#)]- ArchDaily

**Einstein Museum planned for Jerusalem:** ...located at The Hebrew University on Mount Scopus, a site which has drawn some controversy as it lies outside Israel's pre-1967 borders. -- Foster + Partners; Baer, Shiftman-Nathan Architects [[image](#)]- Attractions Management magazine (UK)

**Menil Collection announces landscape architect firm for expansion project:** ...to enhance and expand the 30-acre campus' verdant landscape...working closely with Johnston Marklee, the architects of

the soon-to-be-built Menil Drawing Institute... -- Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates - Houston Chronicle

Who's going to be up for the Stirling Prize? Rory Olcayto draws up the shortlist of shortlists... (And sorry about all the brackets). - The Architects' Journal (UK)

RIBA Awards 2013: Educational buildings dominate this year's Stirling prize longlist: One third of the 52 buildings longlisted... are schools, nurseries, universities and other educational facilities... celebrated the inclusion of "some of the best housing winners for some time." [slide show] - Independent (UK)

'Tent' among 12 Scottish architecture award winners: ... will now compete for the Andrew Doolan Best Building in Scotland Award. -- RIAS/Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland; LDN Architects; Simpson & Brown Architects; Reiach and Hall Architects; Edo Architecture; cameronwebster architects; studioKAP; Gareth Hoskins Architects; Schmidt Hammer Lassen Architects; Patience & Highmore Architects; Rural Design; NORD Architecture [slide show] - BBC

2013 Burnham Prize Winners Announced: NEXT STOP: Designing Chicago BRT Stations -- Hesam T. Rostami/Bahareh Atash; Aetheric Studio; Aneesa Dharwadker/Conor O'Shea; etc. [links to images, info] - Chicago Architectural Club / Chicago Architecture Foundation

Under the Elevated: Reclaiming Space, Connecting Communities: Fellows Named To Study Reviving New York City's Gritty Underbelly: The Design Trust for Public Space named a team of five fellows that aims to transform the 100 million square feet of dark, dingy, and neglected space... -- Susannah Drake/dlandstudio; Chat Travieso; Douglas Woodward; Neil Donnelly; Krisanne Johnson - The Architect's Newspaper

BOFFO Building Fashion Winner Announced! ... a pop-up shipping container space for menswear designer Michael Bastian. -- Bittertang [image] - Architizer

CityAge: The Global Metropolis conference, NYU Skirball Center, New York City, June 18-19 - CityAge

Call for entries/Expressions of Interest (EOI): Designers with 'Backbone' sought to complete Dublin City's 'Civic Spine' - Parnell Square Cultural Quarter (international); deadline: July 5 - Dublin City Council (Ireland)

Call for entries: 6th Benjamin Moore HUE® Awards; no fee; cash prize; deadline: July 12 - Benjamin Moore

The Untouchable City: Rome, the indisputable mecca for architects... I decided to... zoom in on two contemporary projects that... have tried to shoulder the heavy burden of adding to the city's accumulated architectural legacy: Richard Meier's Ara Pacis Museum and Zaha Hadid's MAXXI Museum. By Jakob Harry Hybel [images]

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